

AF FORM 112-PAR

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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COUNTRY GERMANY <i>C/S only</i>		REPORT NO. 52A-5271	(LEAVE BLANK) <i>E/P 137705</i>
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Sociological and Political Conditions in the USSR		(INTERVIEWER) PORTZ, Werner (FW)	(EDITOR) CANTOR
AREA REPORTED ON USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW USAF	
DATE OF REPORT 25 Feb 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Jun 47 - Dec 53		EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) SHIRLEY A. KOLPIN, Lt Col, USAF		SOURCE 220103	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) <i>(52A-5279) (E 3350s)</i>			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)			
<p>A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:</p> <p>1. SOURCE was born on 13 Dec 17 in NARVA (5923N-2812E), Estonia. He had 12 years of education and finally made his living as an organ player. Beside German, SOURCE spoke Russian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian and Polish fluently, and several other languages of the Slavic group fairly well. Prior to 1939, SOURCE was an Estonian and Latvian national and left these countries prior to the date Russia took possession of the Baltic countries. SOURCE considered himself an ethnic German and was granted German citizenship during World War II. Both his parents were blood German though residing in Estonia.</p> <p>2. SOURCE was captured by Russians on May 10th 1945. He was interned in a PW camp near TABOR (4924N-1439E) for several days during which time he underwent the first interrogations by Russian MVD personnel. Soon thereafter SOURCE was transferred to another PW camp in the area of BALATON FUERRET (4642N-1718E), Hungary. Internment lasted from May 45 until Sep 45. Interrogations were also conducted by MVD personnel who finally accused SOURCE of having trained Russian PWs for anti-Soviet activities. SOURCE was transferred to the city jail of SOPRON (3735N-1700E), in Hungary where he was tried and sentenced to 10 years hard labor. He was confined in this jail until Sep 45 when SOURCE was transferred to KHARKOV (4959N-3614E). SOURCE was interned here in a PW penal camp from Sep 45 until Dec 45 when he was transferred to PETCHORA (6525N-5702E). The labor camp located approximately 2 km west of this village was known as a transit camp. SOURCE took severely ill here due to inhuman living conditions and was sent to KOCHMEZ-STATION (6616N-6050E) in Feb 46. He received treatment in a prisoner hospital located close to this settlement. From Apr 46 until Jun 47 SOURCE worked in the greater area as a laborer. During this time SOURCE was interned in a labor camp also located close to KOCHMEZ-STATION. In Jun 47 SOURCE was transferred to a labor camp near ABEZ (6630N-6145E). He was engaged in the constr of small cottages during entire period and was transferred to OBSKAYA (6632N-6555E). New labor camps were under constr here. SOURCE worked on these projects as a laborer from Jul 48 until Oct 48. It must be emphasized that this settlement was newly founded and that only MVD personnel lived in the cottages. A road was also under constr which was to link ABEZ with NOVY PORT (6742N-7255E). It was apparent that the penal area of ABEZ and VORKUTA (6730N-6400E) was gradually shifted eastwards towards SALE-KHARD (6632N-6634E) as a SRR was under constr which ran through this area to link NOVY PORT, a small harbor on the OBSKAYA Bay. This small harbor was during this period converted into a naval base of major importance. The SRR was supposed to be completed on STALIN's birthday in 1949. SOURCE was unable to say whether the SRR was actually completed at</p> <p><u>No</u> INCLS.</p>			
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this time. Information about the constr activities in NOVY PORT were obtained by SOURCE from prisoners who had been transferred to this area and were actually engaged here. Numerous prisoners took ill due to unbearable working conditions and climatic hardship. Only a small percentage was transferred to the prisoner hospital near KOCHMEZ where they received treatment. These prisoners reported cruel shootings of prisoners who fainted of exhaustion or malnutrition. Only prisoners who were Russian nationals were engaged in the constr of this naval base. In Oct 48 SOURCE was transferred to a labor camp near TAYSHET (5555N-9800E) where he was frequently transferred to other labor camps located in the greater area of TAYSHET. SOURCE worked on several housing projects as a laborer. SOURCE was repatriated in Dec 53 and arrived in Western Germany on 23 Jan 54.

a. SOURCE was tried and sentenced for "war crimes". Trial took place in SOPRON in Sep 45 and lasted approximately 30 minutes. A major of the MVD acted as judge assisted by the prosecutor who SOURCE believed was a captain of the MVD. A male 2nd lieutenant, acted as interpreter. His German was below average and almost sounded like a foreign language to SOURCE. SOURCE stood up during trial. When the interpreter read off the charge sheet SOURCE could not understand him and requested that the charges be read in Russian. This was refused. SOURCE was charged with the training of Russian PWs as spies who were supposed to have infiltrated the Russian front line during World War II wearing Russian uniforms. SOURCE denied these charges as he had never been associated with any outfit of this kind. Prior to the trial SOURCE was ordered to the scene in full uniform as a 2nd lieutenant of the German WEHRMACHT (Military Services). SOURCE was however not in the possession of all pieces that actually belonged to his uniform and reported this immediately. He was then furnished a uniform which did not fit him. In fact when he stepped into the room where the trial was conducted a button came off the jacket. This incident was taken with laughter by the Russians of which one said to SOURCE "How could you wage a war with uniforms of such an inferior quality?". SOURCE replied that this had nothing to do with the uniforms but was due to the fact the uniform did not fit him. SOURCE was then told to sew his button on and should return in five minutes. SOURCE requested a needle and thread to do so and was furnished this material immediately. After the interpreter had read off the charge sheet and SOURCE told him that he did not quite understand him, the interpreter explained the contents briefly. SOURCE could only reply that he had been a 2nd lieutenant in a tank unit throughout the war and was never in any way associated with the German counter intelligence. Without hesitation the judge, prosecutor and interpreter left the room and went into an adjoining room where two other officers were sitting. They returned after 10 minutes and ordered SOURCE to stand at attention. The verdict was the following: You are found guilty of having trained Russian nationals to conduct acts of sabotage during World War II against the USSR and are sentenced to 10 years hard labor." SOURCE was escorted to his cell by two guards who stood at the door outside the room. Several days later SOURCE was furnished civilian clothes.

3. SOURCE was regarded by this interviewer as reliable. His intelligence was far above average. During interview SOURCE requested interviewer to make short breaks as he suffered headaches and nervous exhaustion. The physical and nervous condition of SOURCE was indeed very poor. He could not eat anything except dry slices of white bread otherwise he suffered severe pains. Interviewer was of the opinion, that this interview was conducted somewhat too soon after SOURCE's repatriation and the health condition of SOURCE should have been regarded. Under other circumstances SOURCE could have furnished much more detailed information. SOURCE was willing to cooperate in spite of his condition. Various cross checks made by interviewer revealed, that the info furnished by SOURCE could be regarded as reliable. There was no tendency apparent that SOURCE lied during interview.

B. SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARDS POLITICAL PROBLEMS:

4. The kolkhoz population opposed the Soviet regime in their struggle to eliminate collectivization much stronger than any other group among the Soviet

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population. Compulsory delivery quotas were the major source of discontent. Insufficient agricultural machinery, which in many cases was old, made it impossible to reach the output estimated by government officials. According to these estimates delivery quotas were determined disregarding condition of soil, type of fertilizers, type of machinery available, climatic conditions, sick rate among the kolkhoz population and the poor condition of agricultural hand tools which in many cases could not be exchanged since World War II. A high percentage of government officials who claimed to be experts of farming did often determine delivery quotas on a certain grain which exceeded the output reached in the previous year, because the kolkhoz population failed to fulfill their delivery quotas. Western farmers who can decide what will be grown the following year choose in most cases crops other than that was grown in the previous year regarding the condition of the soil differed in this respect from the kolkhoz population in the USSR. They had no free choice as to crops and therefore failed always to fulfill their quotas. SOURCE was surprised about the tremendous number of kolkhoz people confined in Soviet labor camps who were sentenced to long terms of hard labor for such reasons. In spite of the hard work on collective farms, kolkhoz people had as little to eat as other workers. The Ukrainian people may be considered strong enemies of the Soviets. Ukrainians could not hold high positions in the administration. No Ukrainian was found among MVD personnel. Soviet films showed Ukrainians as inferior, inefficient and stupid, their language was discriminated and ridiculed. Their national pride was deliberately hurt and great care was exercised by Soviet officials to suppress any gatherings. SOURCE noticed that approximately 40% of the people confined in labor camps were Ukrainians sentenced for political reasons. He conversed freely with them about their common lot and recalled that most of these people had a high praise for Germany. West-Ukrainians who recalled the time their country was part of the Austrian monarchy praised Emperor FRANZ JOSEPH of Austria-Hungary as the finest ruler they ever had. They regreted the fact that Germany had lost the war against the Soviets and prayed whenever possible for their own liberation from tyranny. They expressed their satisfaction, that the free world took an interest in their lot and were strong believers in the honest efforts made by these countries to liberate their homeland. The large number of Jews confined in labor camps were also strong political opponents of the regime. Since May 53 the number of Jews who arrived in labor camps had suddenly increased. Approximately 10% of the inmates were Jews. Jewish MVD personnel were often attacked by Jews. The number of Jewish MVD personnel was relatively high.

5. All members of the MVD must be considered true followers of the regime. MVD personnel disregarding their ranks were treated like kings even by higher ranking army officers. The young generation who had neither seen nor actually heard about conditions in other countries were regarded as the backbone of the Communist Party even though few of them had the privilege to be a member of the party. However approximately 80% of the juveniles were closely associated with some kind of a party influenced organization. Those privileged to study in some of the Soviet giant universities were the cream of this generation. However, during 1951, students at the university in LENINGRAD (5956N-3020E) revolted against measures taken by the administration. The true reason for this revolt was however unknown to SOURCE even though he happened to speak to some of the students who were sentenced to long terms of hard labor and were confined in several labor camps in the greater area of TAYSHET. He believed, that these students served a probationary period and could be released on grounds of good conduct. So-called activists (STACHANOVZY) were a valuable tool in the hands of the regional Soviet administration. These people replaced the MVD for the time Russians were working. They reported everything to their superiors and were responsible for the fate of millions of prisoners confined in labor camps living under inhuman circumstances. SOURCE happened to meet Russian ex-sailors who served in the Soviet Navy. These sailors were members of a crew on a torpedo boat. Sailors reported to SOURCE that they opposed orders given by higher headquarters which they believed originated from stupid authorities in the Kremlin. They referred to the Soviet Army as an instrument in the hands of

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criminals. Furthermore, that the army was lacking leaders bold enough to inform their soldiers. Under such circumstances the army would gradually gain more independence. SOURCE was astonished that these sailors talked in such a way although they were prisoners serving long term penalties. They regarded the Soviet Navy as undependable. Sailors were sentenced in 1952 and were confined in labor camps in the greater area of TAYSHET.

6. The major sources of discontent among the Soviet population prior to the death of STALIN were the restrictions on employment mobility and the collectivization. In the course of the Five-Year-Plan a tremendously large number of Russian nationals of both sexes were compelled to work in areas often several thousand miles from their home, which meant separation from their family for a period of time that could not be determined. Incomes were comparatively low to the prices of consumer goods. Workers who tried to fulfill their norms in order to earn a little more and actually succeeded in their attempt were requested to donate the surplus amount of money for some state-run institutions. If a worker was willing to donate eight Rubles he was told to make it 10. If he intended to donate 10, the eyes of the man who collected the money told him to make it 15. There was a continuous robbing of money that could have improved the living conditions or would have enabled a worker to buy himself something he had wanted. Threats and promises made people willing to do everything their masters told them to do. This may be the main reason hardly any free Russian worker ever complained about his wages or the prices of consumer goods or inadequate housing. They would however complain about such sources of discontent to somebody whom they believed to be their friend.

C. EVENTS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF STALIN:

7. In spite of the fact that people had many reasons to be dissatisfied with their masters, it was interesting to see how almost every Russian citizen admired STALIN as their infallible father of the nation. It was rather funny to hear Russians criticize the collectivization for instance, the moment the name STALIN was mentioned he hesitated to keep the conversation going. STALIN was their father, STALIN was more, STALIN was their God, their infallible God, even though almost every Russian experienced hard labor, lack of freedom of speech, and felt the dictatorship day by day. STALIN cleared the road towards the peaceful development of their beloved country. Why Russians did not earn enough money was by no means the fault of STALIN who always wanted the best for every Soviet citizen. STALIN was disturbed during the last war, now the Western Capitalists disturbed his intentions again. STALIN was the protector of peace. These and similar remarks were recalled by SOURCE who was astonished about it since he had known Russian exiles who fled their country during the revolution in 1917 and realized the big change that had taken place with this people still in the USSR. SOURCE never experienced that a free Russian worker criticized STALIN. When STALIN was compared with LENIN the older generation tended to prefer LENIN as the man who was STALIN's teacher. The younger generation was inclined to prefer STALIN probably because he was still alive.

8. SOURCE was unable to speak to Russian free workers immediately after STALIN's death was announced. He observed however that free workers wore black ribbons in button holes. Whether they wore those ribbons by free will could not be said by SOURCE.

9. Soon after the amnesty act of the 27 March 53 was announced most of the labor camps within the penal area of TAYSHET which housed only criminals were dissolved. This penal area was called OZORLAG. No political prisoners were released. Political prisoners believed that the dissolution of these camps was due to requests forwarded by the US government and hoped that similar steps would be taken by the Soviet government to release political prisoners. A large number of criminals who were released were arrested again for stealing. Some time later, political prisoners serving sentences up to five years under Para USTA 10 were also released. SOURCE estimated the approximate percentage of prisoners released at 40 - 60%. He estimated the total number of persons held in labor camps prior to the date the amnesty act was carried out at 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 million people. The Soviet population was not satisfied with this measure as many hardened criminals

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and murderers were also among those released. The criminal rate increased rapidly if rumors were true.

10. It was commonly known to Russian citizens that the Soviet's planned a reform of the Criminal Code. This Criminal Code was in preparation and would be published in 1954. Why these steps had not been publicized was unknown to SOURCE.

11. A similar price reduction was effected prior to the outbreak of Russian - German hostilities. Most people in the USSR assumed that this price reduction would be followed by another war. Furthermore, that consumer goods should be available to the population in order to decrease stocks in warehouses which would than be taken over by army authorities. This assumption was wide spread and SOURCE remarked, that utmost attention be paid to this fact. There were rumors, that prices would be reduced again, provided stocks would not decrease to the extent the Soviet government expected.

12. Some time before the arrest of the Kremlin Doctors was announced an increasing number of Jews were confined in labor camps within the penal area OZORLAG (coordinates unknown). These people expressed their fear, that a wide spread persecution would follow. They were indeed not surprised when the arrest of the Kremlin Doctors was announced in the Soviet press. Anti-Semitism was a fact in the USSR and reached its climax when the Doctors were arrested. Jewish prisoners blamed MALENKOV for these measures, because of his fear the large number of Jews in the Soviet administration would be too powerful and would succeed some day in their attempt to gain even higher positions. BERIA who also believed that their power should be broken, made these Doctors responsible for the death of STALIN. Jewish prisoners expressed doubts as to the truth of these charges and said, that BERIA tried to gain MALENKOV's post. Once the Jewish element within the Soviet administration had disappeared, his only opponent MALENKOV would have been no problem to BERIA and his MVD. BERIA who must have expressed his dissatisfaction as to the fact, that STALIN had made MALENKOV his successor by will, even though BERIA was one of STALIN's closest friends fell gradually in disgrace. The repudiation of the Kremlin Doctors caused astonishment among free Russian workers and lowered indeed the prestige of the post-STALIN government to a minimum. This condition was caused, because the Soviet population was during that time full of praise for the anti-Semitic policy of the Soviet government. When BERIA's arrest was announced most Soviet citizens had forgotten all about the Kremlin Doctors and felt happy that this man found his master. They said actually, that the power of the MVD was broken when this man was arrested. Why BERIA was arrested nobody was able to say. Ukrainian prisoners explained this arrest in connection with ZHUKOV and BULGANIN who had made attempts previously to break this power also, thus raising the Soviet Army into a position to which it was entitled to.

13. The Soviet population hardly ever mentioned the 17 June riots of the SZG. SOURCE assumed, that the people which he could contact in the area of TAYSHET were too isolated. No prisoners arrived in camps located in this area who had been arrested in connection with these riots.

14. BERIA's downfall was explained by the Soviet population as the result of a power struggle among individuals of the Soviet government. BERIA's strongest opponent was considered ZHUKOV and BULGANIN. New prisoners did not arrive in camps located in the penal area of OZORLAG.

15. There was evidence that more consumer goods appeared on the free market. SOURCE observed in the area of TAYSHET that Russian free workers wore new hats. He was informed that these hats had arrived in TAYSHET and were immediately sold at reasonable prices. Hats looked somewhat like HOMBURGS and were worn by almost every male. This caused laughter among the educated prisoners, because the way Russians were otherwise dressed while wearing such hats made them look like clowns. SOURCE was finally told by a Russian free worker to read the name inside the hat this worker wore. He identified the name of a British manufacturer.

16. No evidence whether these measures were put into effect as SOURCE was about to be transferred to a discharge camp.

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17. The real power in the Soviet government was MALENKOV supported by the army. BULGANIN was his strongest supporter. There were often rumors about the whereabouts of ZHUKOV. MALENKOV was considered capable to continue STALIN's work. Whether he would ever reach STALIN's infallible status nobody was able to say. MOLOTOV was hardly ever mentioned, however it was said, that his wife had great influence on MALENKOV. Though ZHUKOV and BULGANIN had a great dislike of one another, they were both made responsible for BERIA's downfall in their common attempt to replace the power of the MVD by the power of the army. The Soviet population believed that the ameliorative measures taken during 1953 were the work of army leaders.

18. The Soviet people seemed somewhat happier since the price reduction was put into effect. Their attitude towards the post-STALIN government turned from reserved to friendly when BERIA's arrest was announced. Some people however compared this condition with similar measures that were taken prior to the World War II. The new government was believed to continue this policy.

D. PURGES, RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND MASS ARRESTS:

19. SOURCE was an inmate of several labor camps where Russian and foreign prisoners were confined for political reasons. In the labor camp near TAYSHET OZORLAG 03 he met a Manchurian whose name was BETRIN. This man was sentenced to 25 years hard labor for conspiracy against the Soviet government. He was however shot while walking towards the death strip surrounding a constr site in this area. It was believed, that he was deliberately shot, because he tried to break out of the camp several times. BETRIN was approximately 40 years old, 1.65 m high, black hair and wore spectacles. KITTLE, Otto Hermann, an Austrian national was confined also in this camp. He was supposed to have been an agent for the US and was captured by the Russians in the SZG.

20. SOURCE learned about riots or revolts that had taken place in the gold mining area of KALAMA (coordinates unknown). Furthermore about revolts among miners in the area of RILSK (coordinates unknown). A large number of miners who took part in these revolts were confined in the labor camp "04, 150 km" within the penal area of TAYSHET. "04, 150 km" was the actual name of the camp, located 150 km east of TAYSHET close to the SRR. A large number of prisoners led by a former Russian General whose name was BJELOV broke out of the labor camp near OBSKAYA in 1948. There were rumors that this group reached the EISMEERKUESTE and was picked up by US submarines. SOURCE believed, that the Soviet population in this area supported any prisoner willing to flee. Prisoners would actually dare to flee if they could hope to be assisted by the Western Powers.

21. SOURCE learned about partisan activities in the Baltic countries and the West-Ukraine from members of such partisan groups who were captured by Russians. However, most of the partisans were shot immediately.

22. There were a large number of Lithuanian families who lived within the penal area of OZORLAG. Others lived in settlements outside this area and could not travel freely. Similar settlements existed also in this area where Latvians, Estonians and natives of Bessarabia lived. They were subject to similar restrictions.

E. FORCED LABOR CAMPS:

The following forced labor camps in the penal area of TAYSHET-OZORLAG were known to SOURCE as he had been confined here:

It must be emphasized that the number of kilometers indicated after the number of the camp is equivalent to the number of kilometers from TAYSHET to the east. Most of the camps were located closely to the only SRR that connected TAYSHET with the east. Camp 0.7, kilometer unknown, approximately 1,000 inmates, both sexes, Ukrainians, Balts, East Germans, predominantly Mohammedans. Only political prisoners were confined here to hard labor.

Camp 038, 117 km, a hospital, 500 - 600 inmates of both sexes, predominantly Ukrainians, confined to hard labor for political reasons.

Camp 03, 154 km, approximately 400 male inmates, predominantly Ukrainians, Balts, SOURCE was the only German here, confined to hard labor for political reasons.

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Camp 04, 150 km, approximately 1,500 inmates of both sexes, a large number of whole Baltic families, inmates were with no exception unfit for work. The people who revolted in the mining area of RILSK were confined here also. Only political prisoners.

Camp DOK, 151 km, worked in a sawmill, approximately 2,000 inmates of both sexes, predominantly Ukrainians, confined to hard labor for political reasons.

Camp 033, km unknown, number of inmates unknown.

Camp 030, otherwise same info.

Camps 037, 028, 010, 01, 06, otherwise same info as camp 033, except that the camp 010 was an all female camp.

24. Beside individuals described under Par 19, SOURCE learned from various sources that the Soviets maintained a PW camp where approximately 200 American soldiers captured in Korea were interned. Interviewer reminded SOURCE that this info was of such importance, that he should think twice before repeating this statement. SOURCE was quite confident and replied, that this was the exact truth. The exact location of the camp was, however, unknown to SOURCE. He estimated the location approximately 40 km north of TAYSHET.

25. Until 1949 political and criminal prisoners were confined in same camps. Up to this time prisoners were paid until criminals were separated. While many deliberate shootings had taken place prior to this date, no such shootings took place thereafter. Prisoners were issued coupons for additional food and cigarettes.

26. SOURCE recalled that during his confinement approximately 10 - 15% of the prisoners were shot. These shootings were arranged prior to taking the prisoners to their place of work. There, several prisoners were told to collect some firewood in the vicinity. As prisoners could not use wood that was lying around at the constr site which was always fenced in or surrounded by a death strip, they headed for firewood outside this area. Whenever they stepped across the death strip they were shot to death by MVD guards who just waited for this moment. When prisoners had realized that this was all arranged they refused often to collect firewood. Guards shot them right at the scene.

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